

**Region 10 Strategy, Climate Change and Puget Sound
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Introduction

- * It is my pleasure to be here to today and to be sharing the podium with Jay Manning. My career includes having senior level positions both with the state of California and in the private sector. So I can say with a degree of confidence that your perspective's and Jay's on the federal government and on the Environmental Protection Agency in particular are both familiar to me and appreciated.
- * I can also say, now that I have been on the job for a year now, that my respect for the folks I work with -- which was substantial -- has grown. EPA is blessed with an abundance of talented people who are both passionate about protecting the environment and pragmatic about how best to do so.
- * I realize passion and pragmatism may seem an unlikely and unstable combination. No doubt many of you have examples where passion seemed to defy common sense or pragmatism appeared to be nothing more to bowing to powerful interests,
- * but my experience both outside and especially now that I am inside, is that EPA strikes a good balance between the two the vast majority of the time.
- * Today, I would like to briefly describe to you EPA Region 10's new strategy and explore in depth a couple of those endeavors -- Climate Change and Puget Sound to be specific -- providing some perspective on regulatory and policy issues that may be of special interest to you. Along the way, you'll have a chance to reflect and refine your own perspective on EPA and the challenges we seek to meet.

R10 Strategy

- * When I came to EPA, I started by gathering input from a wide range of stakeholders, including the business community, our state, tribal and municipal partners and environmental organizations. I also initiated an internal feedback process in which more than 70% of Region 10 employees participated. With those broad and varied perspectives in mind and taking into account as well EPAs National Strategy, we developed a Regional Strategy for 2007-2011, which includes a range of specific milestones and measurable commitments.

- * Here is the one page description:

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* Today I want to focus on the last two endeavors, Energy & Climate Change and Watershed Protection & Restoration – focusing in that regard on Puget Sound.

Energy & Climate Change

* I don't have to tell any of you that Climate Change has received an enormous amount of notoriety this past year – and now it seems Climate Change is in the news cycle each and every day.

* For all this increasing coverage, it's sometimes hard to appreciate just how quickly and profoundly the conversation around Climate has changed.

* Remember the debate over whether climate change was actually happening? That's barely a whisper now. Remember arguments over whether Climate Change was simply part of the natural cycle or caused by humans? Those too are fading.

* In his speech to the G-8 just three weeks ago, the President declared – and I quote, “Energy security and climate change are two of the greatest challenges of our time.”

* Whether one looks at the past decade, past year, or past couple of months, I think you'd agree that we've all come a very long way in a very short period of time – the general trend is toward convergence.

* The future promises to be even more stimulating - and I think productive.

*** Much of the current conversation focuses on policy issues – what is the best approach to solving the problem? Just in the next several months alone, EPA will be ruling on the California Waiver which would allow that state and by adoption, other states such as Washington to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles under the Clean Air Act.**

*** While the outcome of past waiver requests has been fairly predictable, this particular waiver is anything but routine and has taken time for good reasons including our having received over 100,000 comments as well as the Supreme Court ruling in April of this year which provided essential guidance to the decision**

*** I know that Jay feels passionately about the waiver and I personally respect his concerns and have voiced them to leadership within the Agency.**

*** I can't predict which way this decision will go – it's still under very active consideration within the Agency.**

But I can predict with real certainty that because of the remarkably diverse array of parties intensely interested in the outcome, it will be newsworthy.

*** In this same timeframe, EPA is scheduled to propose Federal rules on new Alternative Fuel Standards and updated CAFÉ or vehicle fuel efficiency standards – both relevant to Energy & Climate and critical to dealing with GHG since transportation activities account for about a third of all CO2 emissions in the US, and about half of CO2 emissions in WA.**

* This too is likely to find its way into the evening news. In fact, we can expect the national debate between regulatory vs. voluntary approaches will continue to be a hot topic – no pun intended. Finally, we can expect continuing focus on the need to bring all the major economies – including China and India whose growing greenhouse gas emissions might easily outpace the rosier forecasted reductions in the U.S. or in Europe – into the global effort to reduce greenhouse gases.

(The National EPA Priority...)

* That said, EPA is on the move, and moving on more than just the Waiver issue and the Rulemaking. Last January, EPA Administrator Steve Johnson announced that Clean Energy & Climate Change would be one of the Agency's top four priorities. Steve appointed me to be one of its co-champions (actually, I quickly volunteered for the job). We've since launched the Priority within the Agency.

* Its purpose is to increase the pace and expand the reach of the Agency's Climate protection programs. The primary focus is on Energy-related activities in four categories:

- Energy Efficiency
- Energy Production & Supply
- Manufacturing & Industrial Processes, and
- Transportation & Fuels.

* Over 20 successful EPA programs such as Energy Star will enjoy even more emphasis under the Priority.

* Just a few national facts to consider: EPA's voluntary climate protection programs averted the release of about 70 million metric tons in 2006 of carbon- equivalent greenhouse gases. Americans also saved about \$14 billion dollars on their utility bills.

* Also a very little known fact is that the Administration has spent over \$37 B on climate change since 2001—far more than any other nation.

(R10's Energy & Climate Change Endeavor...)

* Closer to home, our regional endeavor complements the National Initiative by translating into Regional action those things relevant to our own circumstances and opportunities out here.

* Climate change is already impacting the people and environment of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska – and the future promises even more dramatic departures from what we’re experiencing now.

* Our strategy reflects efforts to:

- understand those impacts and their implications in greater detail,
- assist communities in adapting to those changes that are inevitable, and
- mitigate greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise contribute to making the inevitable unimaginable.

* We are complementing this planning effort with on-the-ground work. We call this integrated approach “Preparing by Doing” – preparing for what’s to come by doing things that produce real results now. For example, we co-led with EPA Region 9 the creation of the West Coast Collaborative through which its more than 1000-partners entities are reducing diesel emissions and their impacts on human health via a coordinated system of innovative projects.

In addressing the diesel sector, the Collaborative has also racked up an impressive number of climate-related co-benefits, including reductions in GHG emissions totaling 30,000 tons per year.

* We know that many public agencies, members of the private sector and interest groups have been active in the Climate arena for some time now – and we are seeing new groups form to problem-solve, speeding and amplifying progress.

* I really applaud that.

* But we also know that no single entity or group currently has sufficient authority, expertise, or capacity to fully address the challenges posed by Climate Change.

* So, although respective Climate policies and approaches may not be entirely aligned at this particular point in time, we believe that actively exploring synergies and launching collaborative efforts in those areas where we do share common ground – and we believe there is plenty of that to go around -- just makes abundant sense.

Puget Sound

We have another big challenge facing us in our own backyard. Puget Sound is anything but sound, but the good news is that we are well on our way to restoring it. * Puget Sound is a state treasure and restoring the health of Puget Sound is a national priority. Governor Gregoire has set a lofty goal for all of us in the business, government and at the local level to help re-establish a healthy Puget Sound by 2020.

While you will have a chance to hear about the Puget Sound Partnership tomorrow from David Dicks, let me

touch on a few things happening at the federal level.

* Over the past twenty years, EPA has provided significant funding geared towards restoration efforts in Puget Sound. Much of our federal financial support in Puget Sound has been channeled through our State partners; The Puget Sound Action Team and the Department of Ecology.

* EPA fully supports the new Puget Sound Partnership. The recent creation of a Puget Sound Federal Caucus, spearheaded by EPA and with a membership of ten federal agencies, sets up a framework for federal agencies to come together to support local and state partners in protecting and restoring Puget Sound.

* The Puget Sound Federal Caucus recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch a collaborative effort by federal agencies to better integrate, organize, and focus federal efforts in the Puget Sound watershed while supporting the Governor's Puget Sound Cleanup Initiative.

* It is also no secret that Congressman Dicks, a long time champion of Puget Sound, is attempting to increase federal money for the restoration and protection of Puget Sound.

* If this does come about, we would anticipate the federal government playing a more prominent role in the science of Puget Sound in addition to looking at all the ways that we could support the Partnership's work – whether it be through enhancing traditional programs like permitting and enforcement or new incentive, education or technical assistance efforts.

* We have some significant challenges: stormwater, excess nutrients and population growth to name a few, but a healthy Puget Sound is our shared responsibility. By working together as a collective body we can apply a very high level of expertise.

Conclusion

* **There is much more I could say about both of climate change and Puget Sound, as well as Region 10's other endeavors.**

* **But as Jay graciously gave me the opportunity to start our presentation, I wish give him the podium.**

* **Let me say in closing I and the other passionate pragmatists at EPA are committed to working with all of you to develop effective responses to the environmental challenges we face.**